GREAT HARWOOD.

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,

AND

HEALTH VISITOR.

1920.

GLOUGH BROS.,
PRINTERS,
GREAT HARWOOD.

St. Hubert's Lodge

Great Harwood

April 26th, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour in again presenting to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District along with the returns of births and deaths for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The population of Great Harwood in 1880 was 6,281, and at the last Census (1911) 13,815, and the Registrar General estimates the population at the end of 1920 at 13,752.

Great Harwood is situated in a somewhat hilly district, about five miles north-east of Blackburn, and is in the Clitheroe Parliamentary Division. The District covers an area of 2,868 statute acres.

The land on which the Town is built slopes in a south-easterly direction, and this allows a good share of sunshine, besides rendering great aid in its rapid and complete drainage.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods.

The chief streams flowing through the District are the river Hyndburn (which discharges into the river Calder), and forms the boundary on the east side, the Dean brook on the north side, and the Norden brook on the south side.

The houses, which are chiefly of a modern type, are built of stone and good bricks, and the streets are paved (back and front).

The inhabitants of the district are of a thrifty and industrious class, and are chiefly engaged (both male and female) as previously stated in the cotton mills.

We have no hospitals in the District, but great advantage is taken of the hospitals and other forms of gratuitous medical relief in connection with the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, Union Hospital, Blackburn, and the Victoria Hospital, Accrington.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Within the District is situate the Dean Clough Reservoir, belonging to the Accrington District Gas & Water Board, and this consists for the most part of upland surface water gathered from the surrounding hills, and the water is protected from all sources of pollution, and the supply is constant, copious, and of good quality

Considering this is a manufacturing District the rivers and streams are comparatively free from pollution.

The District is well sewered and drained, and the sewage undergoes treatment by Precipitation and Land Irrigation at the Clayton-le-Moors and Great Harwood Joint Outfall Sewage Works:

A scheme for extension of the works at a cost of £50,000 I am informed, has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

The Closet accommodation is as follows:—

Pail Closets (Out Districts and including Farms)	66
Earthenware Tanks	120
Fresh Water Closets	420
Waste Water Closets	2766
Total ...	3372

No conversions have taken place for a number of years, but I anticipate the abolition before long of the remaining 120 earthenware tanks, and fresh water closets substituted.

About 200 ash pits still remain which are not furnished with proper doors and coverings, over 800 ashbins are emptied weekly. The remaining ashpits are built of stone and bricks, furnished with proper doors and coverings.

The character and efficiency of the arrangements for the removal and methods of disposal of house refuse, cleansing of closets, scavenging of the streets, etc., are very satisfactory, and the work has efficiently been carried out under the superintendence of your Inspector of Nuisances

The Inspector informs me that he has made over 450 inspections during the year to Farms, Abattoirs, Infectious Cases, Bakehouses, Lodging House, and other premises.

327 Nuisances have been remedied, which necessitated the serving of 24 informal notices. No statutory notices have been served In all cases the informal notices were complied with.

In the District we have 144 Factories and Workshops, which have been kept under supervision, and the same have been found in a satisfactory condition.

The following is a detailed list :—

Cotton Weaving and Spinning Mills ...	23
Clog-maker and Shoe-makers ...	19
Bakers and Confectioners	63
Dressmakers and Milliners	7
Tailors	5
Wheelwrights	2
Tripe Boilers...	3
Plumbers	3
Blacksmiths	2
Ironfounders	1
Harness Makers	1
Ragsorters	2
Printers	2
Chip & Fish Restaurant	11
Total ...	144

We have no offensive trades or under-ground sleeping rooms in this District.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools is very satisfactory, and in relation to the health of the scholars it was deemed necessary owing to an epidemic of Measles to close the following Schools during February, March and April, viz :—

Name of School.	Period of Closure.
Western Council (Infants Dept.)	February 17th, to April 12th.
,, (All Classes)	,, 23rd, ,,
St. John's C E. (Infants Dept)	,, 24th, ,,
St. Wulstan's R.C.	Mar. 9th, until after Easter Holidays.
St. Hubert's R.C. (Infant's)	Mar 6th ,, ,,
Parish (Girls C.E)	Mar. 9th, ,, ,,

All the Schools were thoroughly disinfected before re-opening.

FOOD.

The wholesomeness of the milk supply within the District, and the general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of same are very satisfactory, and the milk is of a pure and wholesome character.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order is in force, and the Farms have on inspection been found to be kept generally in a good sanitary condition.

It is essential that better attention should be given to the grooming and cleaning of the cattle before milking, especially to the removal of the manure which adheres in dry patches or buttons on the hind quarters of the beast. The persons engaged in milking should wash their hands, wear overalls, and wipe the cow's udder with a clean cloth before commencing to milk. The habit of smoking cigarettes whilst delivering milk, in my opinion, should be discontinued.

Attention to these simple matters would undoubtedly be conducive to a purer milk supply.

A few of the cowsheds (as mentioned in the County Medical Officer's Report of the District) still require structural alterations.

The Plough Farm which was mentioned in a previous report has been purchased by the Council, has been vacated by the tenant, and demolition of the Farm Buildings is contemplated for the purpose of Street Improvements.

The Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918, has been utilised, and several necessitous cases which have come under my observation have had milk supplied in accordance with the requirements of this Order.

We have only two Abattoirs in the District, a public one and one belonging to the local Co-operative Society, and the same are in a good sanitary condition, and under the constant supervision of myself and your Inspector.

1258 lbs. of Diseased Meat has been condemned and dealt with during the year, and it has not been necessary to take any legal action.

The Butcher's Shops, Bakehouses, Tripe Boiling Works, and all premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, have been under constant supervision, and on inspection found in a very satisfactory sanitary condition.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseass.

During the year 68 cases of Zymotic Disease have been notified to me, viz:—Diphtheria 4, Erysipelas 8, Scarlet Fever 35, Malaria 1, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 13, other forms of Tuberculosis 5. Total 68.

In the early part of February a considerable number of cases of Measles occurred in children attending the Infants Department of the Western Council School, and the disease ultimately became prevalent amongst the scholars attending other schools in the District, and it was deemed advisable to close the Schools as previously stated.

Whenever an Infectious Disease is notified, disinfectants are supplied, and instructions given with regard to isolation, and prevention of the spread of disease as far as practicable.

After recovery of the patient, the premises are disinfected and in special cases bedding, etc, conveyed to the Steam Disinfecting Station at Accrington, with whom we have arrangements for this purpose,

The cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer, who visits the patient and makes the necessary arrangements for removal to a Sanatorium if necessary.

A Nurse frequently visits the patients at home and makes arrangements with your Inspector to supply disinfectants, sputum cups, paper handkerchiefs, disinfection of premises, &c. She continues to visit the patient for an indefinite period and gives general advice.

During the year 8 Males & 1 Female were admitted to Sanitoria. 8 Males and 2 Females were discharged. 3 Males and 4 Females have died. 15 Males and 17 Females are working. 10 Males and 6 Females are not working.

58 houses and all the schools have been thoroughly disinfected during the year

We have no Infectious Diseases Hospital in this District.

There has been no necessity for Bacteriological Work during the year. The examinations for Tubercle Bacilli being carried out by the County Authority.

A supply of Diphtheretic Anti-toxin is always kept in stock at the Town Hall, and supplied to the Medical Practitioners in the District on application to your Inspector.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is still carried on and is held fortnightly—the average attendance during the year being 37·6 against 15 in 1919.

The Centre is attended by the Lady Health Visitor, a few Lady members of the Committee, and myself. The Inspector of Nuisances acts as Secretary.

The Infants are weighed and examined, and general advice given with regard to health, feeding, rearing and general care of the infant.

Information is obtained as to the sufficiency of the supply of milk, and in case of shortage or necessity, arrangements are made by your Inspector for a regular supply.

The Lady Health Visitor has made 2138 visits during the year to Mothers and expectant Mothers, and has given advice regarding the feeding, rearing, and general welfare of mother and infant.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff consists of one Inspector of Nuisances, who also carries out the duties of Scavenging Superintendent, supervision of Nuisances, Dairies and Cow-sheds, Workshops, Bakehouses and Premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, exposed for sale, etc., Housing, also the duties of Meat Inspector, and investigation of Infectious Cases.

We have one Lady Health Visitor (part time) whose duty is devoted entirely to Child Welfare work.

HOUSING.

In regard to this question, circumstances are about the same as they were last year, when the following information was supplied in last year's Annual Report :—

A complete survey has been taken of the District and a printed summary is attached hereto, and from which it appeared necessary in order to meet the situation that 160 new houses would be required.

During the year one scheme and two lay-outs have been submitted for 72 houses, and the scheme, lay-out, and plans for this number have been approved, but no work has yet been commenced.

45 houses have on inspection been found to be in a state in need of general renovation, and preliminary notices have been served for improvements to be carried out, but owing to the bad trade in this District and abnormal conditions they remain as last year.

As regards overcrowding we have 49 houses with more than two occupants per room, and improvements in this matter can only be met by the erection of houses.

The conditions as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal in connection with the houses in need of general renovation, are generally satisfactory.

The Inspector of Nuisances is the designated officer to undertake the inspection of houses.

Births and Deaths, etc.

The number of Births registered during the year was 313, viz :— 155 Boys and 158 Girls, giving a birthrate of 22·7 per thousand.

The birth rate for 1919 was 15, and the average for the ten years 1910-19 was 16·7.

154 deaths occurred during the year, viz :—Males 72. Females, 82, giving an annual death-rate of 11·1.

The death rate for 1919 was 12·6, and the average for the ten years 1910-19 was 12·2.

22 deaths of children under one year of age have been registered, equal to a death rate of 70 per thousand births. This is very satisfactory indeed, the rate throughout England and Wales being 80 per 1000 births.

The death-rate for 1919, was 67, and for the ten years previous an average of 93.

22 deaths have unfortunately occurred through the following causes :—

Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7
Premature Birth	9
Erysipelas	2
Measles	1
Dentition	1
Collapse of Lungs	1
Marasmus	1
Total ...	22

17 deaths have occurred from Influenza and other Zymotic Diseases during the year.

The Epidemic death-rate is 0·48. (1910-1919 0·62) and the Phthisis death-rate 0·36, (1910-1919 0·74.)

The causes of death at all ages were :—

		Males.	Females.
Measles	5	3	2
Diphtheria	1	0	1
Influenza	3	2	1
Erysipelas	2	2	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5	2	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	1	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	14	5	9
Rheumatic Fever	4	2	2
Meningitis	1	1	0
Organic Heart Disease ...	23	4	19
Bronchitis	22	11	11
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	14	6	8
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	0	2
Appendicitis ...	2	2	0
Nephritis and Bright's disease	5	2	3
Congenital Debility, &c. ...	8	7	1
Violence (apart from Suicide)	2	2	0
Suicide	2	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	37	19	18
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	0	1
Total ...	154	72	82

As a prevention against Diarrhœa, etc., during the summer months, handbills were circulated giving instructions with regard to cleanliness, lime-washing, and the protection of food from flies, and asking the inhabitants to refrain from eating over or under-ripe fruit, or other articles of diet of an indigestible nature.

The Building Trades, Street Improvements, and General Works have again been at a standstill during the year, only one house having been erected.

I consider the death-rate of 11·1 very satisfactory, and the same will bear favourable comparison with most other manufacturing towns and districts, as the average death-rate throughout England and Wales is 12·4.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I congratulate you on the very satisfactory sanitary condition of your District, and I earnestly thank you for the support and encouragement you have always given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN PATCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health

TOWN HALL,

GREAT HARWOOD,

April 28th, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you my Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

337 Nuisances have been remedied, viz :—

Blocked W.C's, Drains and Gulleys ...	301
Broken Waste Water Closet Tippers ...	8
Houses in a filthy condition ...	2
Accumulations of Refuse, Stable and Pig Manure	7
Defective Ashbins	19
Total	337

Notices issued :—

Written (Informal) ...	15	
Verbal	9	
Statutory	0	
Total	24	all complied with.

Closet and Refuse accommodation.

Pail Closets (Out Districts)	66
Earthenware Tanks	120
Fresh Water Closets	420
Waste Water Closets	2766
Total	3372

Ashpits not furnished with proper doors and coverings	200
Ashpits furnished with proper doors and coverings ...	2327
Ashbins	815
	3342

The Ashbins are emptied weekly and the Ashpits every 4 to 6 weeks unless reported, when attention is immediately given.

The pail closets are cleansed weekly and the earthenware tanks every 4 weeks unless reported.

During the year 68 Cases of Infectious Disease have been notified. Investigation and enquiries were made relating thereto and the particulars obtained, forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

58 houses and all the Schools have been fumigated thoroughly.

In co-operation with the Tuberculosis Nurse I have given special attention to the patients by supplying Sputum Cups, Paper Handkerchiefs, Disinfectants, etc.

The Bakehouses, Abattoirs, Workshops, Dairies and Cowsheds have been under supervision, and the limewashing, cleansing, etc., has received attention.

The Butcher's Shops, Abbatoirs, and all other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, have been under constant supervision, and, on inspection, have been found in a satisfactory condition.

The carcasses of 2 Heifers and 1 Pig, (1258 lbs.) have been condemned and destroyed, being totally unfit for human consumption.

A case of a Farmer who had slaughtered sheep on his premises was dealt with. He was requested to appear in front of the Council, and severely reprimanded, and along with all the Farmers in the District warned, that a continuance of this practice would result in legal action.

During the year I have attended the Meetings in connection with the Maternity & Child Welfare Centre, and kept all the necessary records.

Particulars relating to Factories & Workshops are given in the Medical Officer's Report, as well as Housing Statistics.

The refuse from Fish Shops, etc , is collected daily.

The cleansing of Ashpits, Scavenging and Watering of the Streets, Distribution of Disinfectants, Cleansing of Public Urinals, are all under my constant supervision, and have received the necessary attention during the year.

In regard to Black Smoke observation it has not been necessary during the year to take such observation on account of the bad trade in this town.

Matters requiring attention as soon as circumstances will permit are as follows :—

Abolition of the existing Earthenware Tanks, and conversion of the same to the fresh water carriage system.

Provision of Ashbins in connection with the Ashpits which are not furnished with proper doors and coverings.

Repairs in connection with the houses which are in need of general renovation.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I beg to state that the general standard of Housing in the District, cleanliness of the inhabitants, the cleanliness of streets and disposal of refuse, the absence of any serious epidemics, the low deathrate, are all matters which will in my opinion bear favourable comparison with any other inland Town.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

ALBERT EDDLESTON,

Inspector of Nuisances.
Scavenging Superintendent, etc.

St. Hubert's Lodge,

Great Harwood,

April 29th, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

313 Children have been registered during the year.

I have made 2138 visits and given instructions and advice to the mothers and expectant mothers on the rearing, feeding, and care of the infants.

The attendance at the Maternity Centre has been very good. No doubt owing to the bad trade in the town, the mothers have not had regular work. The average being 37·6.

Through the kind generosity of a few Ladies and Gentlemen in the town we were again able to give a treat to the Mothers who attended the Centre well. On Tuesday afternoon, July 6th, a Motor Drive was thoroughly enjoyed by mothers and babies, the weather being fine and warm. Tea being provided at Waddington.

The general health of the babies is excellent, and great credit is due to the mothers and nurses for the attention and care they give them.

(Signed),

Your obedient Servant,

ESTHER PATCHETT,

Health Visitor.